

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT  
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Classification

Origin

ACTION: AmConsul MONTREAL

Info:

INFO: Amembassy BEIRUT  
BOGOTA  
BONN  
BRASILIA  
BRUSSELS  
BUENOS AIRES  
CANBERRA  
COPENHAGEN  
DAKAR  
DAR ES SALAAM  
DJAKARTA  
GUATEMALA CITY  
THE HAGUE  
LAGOS  
LONDON  
MADRID  
MEXICO CITY  
NEW DELHI  
OTTAWA  
PARIS  
PRAGUE  
RIO DE JANEIRO  
ROME  
TEL AVIV  
TOKYO  
TUNIS  
USINT CAIRO (by pouch) ✓

STATE

SUBJ: ICAO MEETING ON ME AVIATION INCIDENTS

REF: State 6001 (NOTAL)

FOR US REP ICAO

Drafted by:

IO/UNP:TCarolan:avw 1/16/69

Tel. Ext.

7043

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by

WTO - David H. Popper

Clearances:

NEA/IAI - Mr. Baer

E/OA/AL - Mrs. Gravatt

NEA/ARN - Mr. Baas

L/UNA - Mr. Reis

IO/UNP - Miss Brown

L/SCA - Mr. Malmberg

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Info:

1. Info received to date re Jan 2 Lebanese complaint to ICAO Council about Dec 28 raid on Beirut Airport indicates Lebanese REP at Jan 20 Council meeting will call for application of following sanctions against Israel: (a) ~~xxxx~~ expulsion of GOI from ICAO membership through amendment Chicago Convention at extraordinary ICAO Assembly; (b) Council request that member states refuse air navigation services to Israeli aircraft under their bilateral air transport agreements.
2. Israeli counter-complaint submitted to ICAO Council Jan 14 accuses Lebanon of violating international obligations under Chicago Convention QTE by harboring in its territory terrorist organization that has accepted responsibility for committing acts of violence and for other threats against Israel civil passenger aircraft, thereby constituting grave danger to international civil aviation UNQTE. GOI requests Council consider and take prompt measures to protect international civil aviation from such incidents as July 23 El Al hijacking and Dec 26 attack

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DECLASSIFIED  
PA/HO, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
June 22, 2004

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on El Al aircraft in Athens, and to insure GOL and other govts concerned fully discharge their responsibilities in this regard. Israeli Embassy informs us GOI thinking tentatively of seeking to have Council President work out consensus condemning any illegal interference with international civil aviation.

3. We believe ICAO Council should avoid political debate and concern itself with technical aviation aspects of general subject raised by Lebanese and Israeli complaints, i.e., question of ensuring that international civil aircraft, their passengers and crews, and facilities required for their operation be safeguarded against all illegal interference. Preliminary soundings with Canadians, Australians, British, Dutch, Germans and Italians here and in Montreal show them generally in favor of this approach. We hope you will be able attract additional support for it among other Council members in days to come.

4. Following points comprising US position on this matter are who located in countries represented on ICAO Council, provided for your use. Info addressees may draw on them in

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answering inquiries or discussing subject with host Govt officials. (a) UN Security Council is proper body to consider political aspects of subjects raised by GOL and GOI. SC has already done so, having adopted RES 262 unanimously on Dec 31. USG position was expressed very clearly at that time. (b) Bearing in mind ICAO's specialized technical character, we believe ICAO Council should engage in effort to safeguard international civil aviation from all illegal interference and not allow itself be drawn into discussion of political matters already dealt with in proper international forum. (c) ICAO now looking into legal aspects of hijacking problem and US seeking bring into force International (QTE Tokyo UNQTE) Convention on Crimes Aboard Aircraft and proposing additional protocol on hijacking. Problem now before Council, however, involves number issues not covered in these efforts and which should be considered in their entirety. (d) Most Council REPS have not been available in Montreal for informal discussion and consultation prior to Jan 20 meeting.

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It therefore desirable allow sufficient time for such consul-  
 tation to take place after hearing statements of complainants  
 and preliminary views of member states at initial meeting(s).  
 We hope by time Council meets again on this subject agreement  
 would develop in favor of defining problem in broad, non-political  
 terms and referring it to Special Committee or Working Group.  
 amending Chicago Convention to  
 (e) US not prepared support sanctions or ~~convening extraordin~~  
 exclude or suspend any member state.  
~~very session ICAO Assembly~~

END

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